

**Notice of Public Scoping
Livestock Grazing Permit Renewals**

Comment Period: open until November 1, 2004

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The White River Field Office (FO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, we would like any information you may have which would assist the FO in prioritizing land areas for the assessment of public land health standards for Colorado. Secondly, ten (10) grazing permit/leases will expire during fiscal year (FY) 2005 (10/1/04 to 9/30/05). To process the renewal of these permit/leases we would like the public to identify any issues, concerns, or resource conditions on the allotment(s) associated with the permit/leases, to assist us in prioritizing the work.

The assessment of public land health will be done on a land area basis. It is anticipated that it may take ten years or more to complete the assessment on all lands within the FO. With this notice, our objective is to solicit the public's help in identifying land areas within the FO that should be given a priority for assessing land health standards.

Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Using the comments and all other available information, the team will establish the priority list of the land area(s) that will be assessed for compliance with the health standards during FY 2005.

The FO will be also be completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and making decisions on the renewal of certain grazing permit/leases. Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be.

An interdisciplinary team will rank the expiring permits into high, moderate, and low priority categories based on all information available including public comments. The ranking will help determine the amount of consideration necessary and the appropriate level of NEPA documentation for reaching a decision on each grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE LAND AREA(S) AND APPROXIMATE FEDERAL ACREAGE
WHERE HEALTH ASSESSMENTS
WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE DURING FY 05**

NAME AND GENERAL LOCATION OF AREA	FEDERAL ACREAGE
PICEANCE BASIN LAND AREA: ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE BELOW (ALLOTMENT # 6025, 6026)	20,332
WOLF CREEK/RED WASH LAND AREA: ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE BELOW (ALLOTMENT # 6323, 6371, 6335, 6324, 6332, 6320)	95,197
UPPER WHITE RIVER LAND AREA: ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE BELOW (ALLOTMENT # 6624, 6825, 6619, 6816)	17,106
DOUGLAS/CATHEDRAL LAND AREA:ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE ABOVE (ALLOTMENT # 6357, 6346, 6361)	226,379

Permits\leases are scheduled for renewal in FY 2004 on the following grazing allotments:

Permittee/Lessee		Allotment Name And/Or Number	Public Land Acres	County
050037	Ducey, Alan and Crystal	06025 Skinner Ridge	1,110	Garfield
051423	Norell, Dee and Vicky	06025 Skinner Ridge	1,110	Garfield
0500176	Wenschhof, George	06026 Reagles	19,222	Rio Blanco
0500177	Mantle, Dean	06026 Reagles	19,222	Rio Blanco
051478	Sepic, Barry	06624 Willow Springs	750	Rio Blanco
051460	Crippled Cowboy Cow Outfit	06357 Evacuation Creek	85,875	Rio Blanco, Garfield
050026	Anderson, August	06619 Villa Individual	620	Rio Blanco
051479	David Smith Ranches Inc.	06625 Smith Crawford	14,710	Rio Blanco
051480	Crawford, Gayle	06625 Smith Crawford	14,710	Rio Blanco
051462	Steele, James	06346 Twin Buttes 06361 Foundation Creek	140,466 3,839	Rio Blanco, Garfield
051450	Vista Del Sol	06375 Cassion	1,445	Moffat
051401	Noel's Contracting, Marvin Noel	06371 Red Rocks	895	Moffat
051504	Klinglesmith, Lowell	06816 Flag Creek	1,026	Rio Blanco

051447	Three Springs Ranch Inc.	06323 Wolf Creek 06335 Hall Draw 06324 Massadona 06332 Horse Draw	54,174 6,977 8,405 16,507	Moffat Rio Blanco Rio Blanco, Moffat Moffat
051444	Villard Ranch	06320 Red Wash 06332 Horse Draw	8,239 16,507	Rio Blanco Moffat

Following completion of the scoping process, comments and all available information will be used by the FO interdisciplinary team to prepare a Field Office Plan. This plan will consist of two lists, the land area(s) planned for assessment, and the ranking of permits/leases to be renewed. This plan will be posted on the Internet in a subsequent notice no later than December 1, 2004.

Annually hereafter, this same process will be used. A public scoping notice will be posted on the Internet soliciting comment on identifying land areas for health assessment, and ranking grazing permit\leases up for renewal for the following fiscal year.

If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a land health assessment, please contact the individual at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do not have specific comments at this time but have questions about the land areas or allotments listed in this notice, contact the individual at the address above.